

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

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70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01

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R 181827Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6565

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 14910

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

E.O.11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINS, GJ, UK

SUBJECT: GRENADA INDEPENDENCE ORDER APPROVED

REF: BRIDGETOWN 1709

1. HOUSE OF LORDS APPROVED GRENADA INDEPENDENCE ORDER BY VOTE OF 80 TO 50 EVENING DECEMBER 17. (IT HAD PASSED COMMONS LAST WEEK.) ORDER IN COUNCIL SETTING FEBRUARY 7 AS DATE FOR FULL INDEPENDENCE SCHEDULED TO BE SIGNED BY QUEEN DECEMBER 18.

2. WE DISCUSSED THIS DEVELOPMENT IN LIGHT OF CURRENT EVENTS IN GRENADA WITH MILES PRESTON, HEAD OF CARIBBEAN DEPARTMENT WHO SAID THERE IS NO THOUGHT AT THIS TIME OF MODIFYING HMG'S POSITION WITH RESPECT TO GRANTING INDEPENDENCE AS SCHEDULED. WHEN PRESSED AS TO HOW BRITISH MIGHT REACT TO A VIOLENT OVERTHROW OF THE GAIRY GOVERNMENT, PRESTON SAID THAT INDEPENDENCE ORDER IS IR-CONFIDENTIAL
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REVOCABLE. HE ACKNOWLEDGED, HOWEVER, THAT IN EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION (WHICH HE SEEMED TO DEFINE AS NOTHING

LESS THAN COMPLETE ANARCHY AND BLOOD RUNNING IN THE
STREETS), HMG MIGHT HAVE TO RECONSIDER ITS POSITION.
COMMENT: ALL INDICATIONS HERE ARE THAT BRITISH ARE
DETERMINED TO RID THEMSELVES OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR
GRENADA COME WHAT MAY UNLESS POLITICAL SITUATION BECOMES
SO CHAOTIC THAT INTERNATIONAL OPINION WOULD BE OUTRAGED
IF UK WERE TO CAST THE ISLAND ADRIFT.

SOHM

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: mcintyresh
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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30 JUN 2005

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